

The Federal Communications Commission

Dear The Federal Communications Commission,

It's bad enough that the government interfered with the Bell companies. I think that that interference caused more problems. We really don't have competition. More and more companies are merging and buying each other out. Does this really help? No!!! It just becomes a monopoly again. I only use my cell phone for emergencies when I'm out at a doctor's appointment or when shopping or visiting someone and I need to have a phone to make a call for a return ride home, or in case my child's school calls me, or I'm letting my doctor or whom ever I'm in route to that I'm running late etc. or if I'm stranded somewhere and need help to get home. I only use my cell phone for these types of instances. I can not afford to pay outrageous fees for something I only use for emergencies or very rarely. There are charges on the regular land line phones that most people don't even know what they are. On a radio show, the DJ's were talking about these charges on our phones and they don't know what they are. Someone did some research and I heard that when we were at war in the 50's or before that in order to pay for the war, there was some fee on the phone bill to help fund the war and when the war was over (been over for years) that the fee was supposed to be stopped. Well that fee is still on our phone bills and it hidden somewhere in there. Where has all that money gone? Are we consumers be cheated? I'm poor, disabled and unable to work. I CAN NOT AFFORD HIGH PRICES ON A CELL PHONE THAT I RARELY USE!!! Make common sense decisions and don't hurt the poor.

I do not want to pay more for my telephone service! I urge you to reject a flat fee proposal that would change how contributions are made to the Universal Service Fund. I am concerned that this proposal could make my current service unaffordable.

Under the flat fee proposal you are considering, people who make few long distance calls would pay the same as people or businesses that make many calls. In other words, low-volume and primarily residential customers would bear the same universal service fund burden as a high-volume residential or business customers. This is unfair!

I use my wireless phone for safety, security and convenience. I don't want to lose these benefits so that big businesses can pay less than their fair share. I urge you to reject the proposal to move the USF collection system to a flat-fee.

Keep the USF Fair!

Sincerely,

Ellen Martinez
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